

March 4, 2011

GOOD EVENING MEMBERS APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

My name is Leana, I am a recently laid off HIV/AIDS medical case manager, along with the loss of my job, I lost my health insurance; I cannot afford to pay \$586 a month under cobra and the lower cost insurance does not cover pre existing conditions. If I apply for DSS Low Income Adult program I would be required to meet a spenddown that I will most likely never meet and I will not have coverage when I need it.

I shudder to think what my former clients and HIV + are experiencing due to these proposed cuts. This will only add to the stigma that unfortunately still plagues this disease, unlike any other disease.

I urge you tonight to take into consideration the lives of the many individuals whose lives are already compromised by a disease whose stigma continues to affect them, they need to have their medication available w/o interruption in order to have a quality of life that enables them to be productive in their community.

These cuts will have a negative impact for them as they will not have the money to buy their medications while trying to meet a spenddown required by the Department of Social Services. Do not cut CADAP to individuals with no medical insurance and to those that need to meet a spenddown.

I am not saying, do not cut, I understand these need to be made, I am saying come up with a solution that will make healthcare available for all of us; especially the HIV/AIDS population. Thank you!

Leana Ruiz